

Notes taken by Brad Marquardt from the December 10, 2024 Public Works Committee Meeting

- University indicated an increase of approximately 40 vehicles per day on Prairie Street and approximately 400 vehicles per day on Prince Street. University also noted that as students got accustomed to the closure of Starin Road, they saw an increase of students heading east from Prince Street to cross Starin Road in the closed area instead of using the crosswalks west of Warhawk Drive. In response to reduced response times, the University mentioned that the barricades would be replaced with gates (remotely/electronically controlled) to allow emergency vehicles to get through if needed.
- Alderperson Hicks indicated he received emails both in support and against. Would like to see the possibility of additional less intrusive options before resorting to the closure. He mentioned better lighting by the bookstore crosswalk and additional signage. He mentioned that streets are not closed by elementary schools and that the School District Transportation Committee he sat on heard comments about parents already not letting their kids cross Main Street, even at traffic signal controlled intersections, because of the amount of traffic.
- Alderperson Majkrzak was in favor of the closure. He mentioned there are more opportunities with pedestrian accidents on Starin Road than anywhere else in the City. He also mentioned, if there are other areas in the City that need to be looked at for pedestrian safety, the City should do that.
- Alderperson Smith was also in favor of the closure. While not specifically receiving emails Smith did hear conversations of students who appreciated the closure. It was also mentioned that the University did have a CSO at the crosswalk west of Warhawk Drive that was not included in the Starin Road closure.
- Resident Jan Bilgen noted she has seen a number of close misses of pedestrians being hit. Though she did agree both parties have a mutual responsibility. She believes the right thing to do is to close the street and provide safety for the pedestrians. Additional signs or lights are only a band aid.
- Resident Jane Mortensen mentioned students are adults and they should be prepared for the real world when they leave college. She is against the closure. She mentioned there are issues on many streets, should those streets be closed also.